



THE PANTHER REPORT

Roaring for news, and truthful stories

Gwynns Falls Elementary School, Baltimore, MD

Volume 1

March 2004

Cover Story: Tuskegee

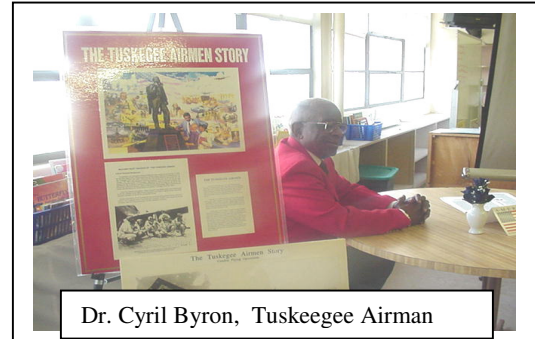
Airmen Visit

by C. B.

On Thursday March 25, 2004 two "Tuskegee Airmen" visited our school. They informed us about their experiences in the Air Force and showed a VHS tape. They were Dr. Cyril Byron and a retired Air Force Colonel who did most of the speaking. Both of the men have very interesting lives. They traveled to lots of places and did many exciting things. They feel the experience of the Tuskegee Airmen changed their lives in a positive way. They told us we can do whatever we believe we can do if we stick to our dreams.

Some fifth grade science students along with the 5th grade science teacher attended. They asked good questions. Mrs. Lofton also came with some of the NASA Kids from the NASA Flight Contest.

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African Americans trained to be pilots of airplanes in the military. When they went to their assignments there was a lot of segregation and discrimination. They learned all the jobs that need to be done at an airfield. They were formed in the 1940s. Some of the places they flew in World War II were Italy and North Africa.



Dr. Cyril Byron, Tuskegee Airman

Black History Program

by A. S.

Today March 31st I went to the Black History program. I had to play in the Jazz Band under the direction of Mr. Pope. We played *Mercy, Mercy, Mercy; My Girl; and Down By The Riverside*. I started crying when I had to watch the NASA Kids VHS tape with the dedication to the Van Dykes. One of my friends had to go home because she was crying so much. She was crying so hard because the kids who died were her

cousins. After the video the man from Coppin sang a very sad song that made me cry even more.

The principal's sorority Phi Delta Kappa National Sorority sponsored the program. They invited eight schools to present. The sorority gave our school a beautiful painting by an African artist. We competed against other elementary, middle, high schools and

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Coppin State. Our principal was very proud of us that day.

Kites Fly at the Falls Staff



Flight crew getting briefing with teacher

Thursday March 25th was a busy day. The NASA Kids Club invited the Tuskegee Airmen and they also had a kite flying day for 2nd and 3rd grades. Mrs. Lofton's third graders wrote about their reactions to the kite flying.



My Kite By B. B.

Mrs. Lofton taught us a lot of things about kites in our class before we flew our kites. The spine is the vertical stick on the kite, and the spar is the horizontal stick on the kite. It is shaped like a rhombus.

My kite was colorful. My kite crashed a lot. It flew really high in the sky a few times. Because we were away from trees my kite looked like it could fly in the air up into the clouds. It could fly over the tree tops. My bridle came off. B.'s kite crashed and rippled down. A kite needs air or wind to fly. My flying line got stuck onto another student's flying line. I got tangled up in it. My kite was damaged a little. Before it crashed I won a new kite. I followed the directions to putting it together. I had lots of fun flying my kite. It felt excellent!

How to Build a Kite

By E. B.

First, I got my spar and spine connected to the bridle. Next, I got the bridle connected to the flying line. Then, I made sure it was secure to the reel. Then, I would be able to fly my kite. Someone took the kite I was supposed to have. So I missed the fun. When I didn't fly a kite I was sad because I was left out.



Kite Flying By Y.M.

I know about the parts of the kite. The spine is the vertical stick on the kite. The spine is the vertical stick that is connected by the bridle. The frame surrounds the kite and keeps the cover onto the kite. The tail helps to keep the most wind under the kite. Then the flying line is connected to the bridle and the other part of the flying string is connected to the reel.

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Kite Day By C. W.

The kite was hard to make. I followed the directions. But I needed help. We learned that the Wright Brothers built a box kite. Their kite stayed in the air longer than the others. Their kite didn't crash. They sold their kite for 35 cents. There is a vertical stick called the spine connected to the spar which is horizontal. They are kept together with the bridle. The kite is shaped like a rhombus. The cover is very bright and colorful. It is held on by the frame. The tail helps the kite stay in the air. I enjoyed learning about kites.

Kite Day

By N. D.

When I flew my kit it crashed and fell down. So I started to run and it stayed up in the air. Then when it came down it got tangled into my friend's kite. It tore. I was able to get another kite. I threw the old one away. When our time was up I was disappointed. Tyrell took my kite from me on the way home. I didn't care because my friend gave me her kite. That made me feel so much better. I really enjoyed "Kite Day."

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My Kite

By N. S.

My kite was flying in the sky. My kite stayed up in the sky. Tracy and I flew our kites the highest on the playground. I won a new kite from one of the judges. My two friends won too. I was so happy when I flew my kite with the other kids. Some kites were different colors. Some flew and some crashed. I had a good time flying my kite.

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March Into Nutrition

Staff Article

March Is National Nutrition Month. At Gwynns Falls we did lots of things to help people eat healthy snacks. Some classes made posters with healthy snack slogans. One third grade class wrote paragraphs based on "I'd Never Eat a Beet" from their reader. We thought they were so special we wanted to share a few of them with you.

I'd Never Eat Spinach

By M. J.

I'd never eat spinach
because I cannot stand the taste.
I'd rather nibble on carrots or bread,
or my father's face.
I would eat chicken;
I would eat paper.
I might even eat a jacket,
but some spinach? No! not at all.

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I'd Never Eat Cantaloupe

By D. B.

I'd never eat cantaloupe
because I cannot stand the taste;
I'd rather nibble a t.v. stand,
or a carrot, or a shoe lace.
I would eat pizza
I would eat steak,
I might even eat chicken
But cantaloupe? No! not at all.

#

I'd Never Eat Cheese

By D. D.

I'd never eat cheese, because
I cannot stand the taste;
I'd rather nibble paper, or
Pencils or paste.
I would eat a door handle.
I would eat a t.v. stand, I might even
Eat a window pane if I can,
But cheese? No! Not at all.

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I'd Never Eat a Piece of Liver

By W. K.

I'd never eat a piece of liver, because
I cannot stand the taste;
I'd rather nibble on bananas or a plate.
I might even eat a time bomb!
But a piece of liver? No, Not at all.

**Do you eat
your
fruits and
veggies?**

Staff Article



Staff members of The Panther Report took surveys of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders to see what their fruit and vegetable eating habits are like. Here are the results. Most 3rd graders surveyed said they eat 2 fruits and 3 vegetables every day. Their favorite snack—pizza. In the 4th and 5th grade, chicken and then pizza came up as the favorite snacks. Most of them said they eat 2 vegetables and 3 fruits sometimes.

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**Kids Weigh
Backpacks**

by S. B. & P. E.



Weekly Reader surveyed 1,300 kids to find out how heavy kids' backpacks are. 858 kids said they carry 1 to 2 pounds. 465 said they carry more than 12 pounds. Doctors say kids shouldn't carry more than 8 pounds in their backpacks. If they do, kids can break or injure their backs. Their advice is to **CLEAN OUT YOUR BACKPACK!**

I think children's backpacks are heavy because they have too much stuff in them. I also think they get too much extra homework. There should be more class work and less homework. If there were less homework, children's backpacks would be lighter.

Source: Weekly Reader, Grade 3, March 26/2004

NEXT ISSUE -

- *CREATIVE WRITING*
- *MORE SURVEYS AND OPINION POLLS*
- *NEWS ABOUT SENIOR MEMORY BOOK*

HAPPY SPRING BREAK!

The Panther Report Staff

is growing every day. Want to join us? See our advisor:

Mrs. Miles-Humes

***Thanks to all the teachers who
worked with students to submit
articles.***

Principal

Mrs. Johnson

Managing Asst. Prin.

Mrs. Boston

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